CHECK FOR PENDING E-MAIL USING CALLER ID AND SELECTIVE ANSWER RING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An Internet Access server includes a caller-ID map. The caller-ID map stores a

5   list of caller-IDs associated with the ISP with corresponding user identification and

password. Upon receiving a request for a connection, the ISP extracts the caller-ID

included in the request to connect, finds the corresponding user identification and

password stored in the caller-ID map and retrieves the number of new messages in the

caller's mailbox. If there are no new messages, an audible ringing tone is returned to

10   the caller allowing the caller to terminate the request for connection.